## Message Text

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62.

**ORIGIN EUR-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

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P 142305Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 183880

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR

SUBJ: SMITH/SEEGER TRAVEL REQUEST

- 1. NEW YORK TIMES DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR ROBERT CLURMAN NOTIFIED DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT TIMES HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM HEDRICK SMITH IN LONDON COMPLAINING THAT SOVIETS STILL STALLING ON REQUEST BY SMITH AND MURRAY SEEGER OF L.A. TIMES TO VISIT KAZAKHSTAN SEPT. 18-19. SMITH TOLD TIMES THAT MFA HAD INDICATED TO SEEGER THAT TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE DELAYED AT LEAST ONE WEEK WHICH WOULD BE BEYOND HARVEST TIME, STORY THAT SMITH AND SEEGER INTENDED TO COVER. SMITH SAID SOVIET ACTION SMACKED OF A TURNDOWN AND ASKED CLURMAN TO NOTIFY DEPARTMENT.
- 2. COINCIDENTALLY, DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMED SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR YEVSTAFYEV OF ITS SUPPORT FOR SMITH/ SEEGER APPLICATION ONLY MINUTES BEFORE CLURMAN CALLED. YEVSTAFYEV WAS UNAWARE OF APPLICATION BUT AGREED TO INFORM MOSCOW OF DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST.
- 3. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT MFA PRESS DIVISION TO INDICATE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT FEELS SMITH/SEEGER APPLICATION IS A LEGITIMATE

REQUEST, MADE FAR IN ADVANCE, AND THAT WE WILL CONSIDER DELAY BEYOND SEPT. 18/19 A TURNDOWN FOR WHICH WE WILL BE FORCED TO RECIPROCATE. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: THE PRESS, JOURNALISTS

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Review Authority: smithrj

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10 SEP 2001

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To: MOSCOW

Type: TE

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